

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management**

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**Finding of No Significant Impact  
Fifteen Mile Wildlife Water Modification Projects  
April 2016**

**PREPARING OFFICE**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Worland Field Office





# **Finding of No Significant Impact**

**DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2016-0003-EA**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2016-0003-EA) for a proposed action to address wildlife project maintenance needs in Washakie and Park Counties. This EA incorporates the proposed action of providing more consistent and reliable wildlife water sources by augmenting the water catchment, storage and availability at the existing Paradise, Squaw Teats, and Whistleberry Guzzler project sites in the upper Fifteen mile watershed, approximately 30 miles West of Worland Wyoming. Project Location:

Whistleberry Guzzler (15 mile Water Catchment)- T48N., R.98W., SWSW Sec 15

Squaw Teats Guzzler - T48N., R.98W., SE Sec 15

Paradise Guzzler - T48N., R.97W., SE Sec 28

DOI-BLM-WY-R010-2016-0003-EA is attached to this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative were analyzed in the EA.

## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:**

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, I have determined that the project is not a major federal action and will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance in context or intensity as defined in 40 CFR 1508.27 and do not exceed those effects described in the Approved Resource Management Plan for the Worland Field Office, dated September 21, 2015. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed.

This finding is based on the context and intensity of the project as described:

### **Context:**

The project is a site-specific action directly involving approximately .27 acres of BLM administered land surface disturbance that by itself does not have international, national, regional, or state-wide importance.

### **Intensity:**

The following discussion is organized around the Ten Significance Criteria described in 40 CFR 1508.27 and incorporated into resources and issues considered (includes supplemental authorities Appendix 1 H-1790-1) and supplemental Instruction Memorandum, Acts, regulations and Executive Orders.

The following have been considered in evaluating intensity for this proposal:

#### **1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.**

The proposed action would impact resources as described in the EA. Wildlife, cultural, vegetation, soils, and hydrological resources may be impacted. Mitigating measures to reduce impacts to resource values were analyzed and applied as Conditions of Approval. None of the environmental

effects discussed in detail in the EA and associated appendices are considered significant, nor do the effects exceed those described in the Worland Resource Management Plan FEIS.

**2. The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.**

The proposed action was designed to mitigate for public health and safety. The reclamation plan was reviewed for conformance with applicable health and safety issues and concerns.

**3. Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.**

The historic and cultural resources of the area have been inventoried and potential impacts mitigated through conditions of approval attached to the selected alternative. The following components of the Human Environment and Resource Issues are not affected because they are not present in the project area: park lands, prime farm lands, wetlands, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or ecologically critical areas.

**4. The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be controversial.**

There is no scientific controversy over the nature of the impacts.

**5. The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.**

The project is not unique or unusual. The BLM has experience implementing similar actions in similar areas. The environmental effects to the human environment are fully analyzed in the EA. There are no predicted effects on the human environment that are considered to be highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

**6. The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.**

The actions in the selected alternative were considered by the interdisciplinary team within the context of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete analysis of the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the selected alternative and all other alternatives is described in Chapter 2 of the EA.

**7. Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.**

The interdisciplinary team evaluated the possible actions in context of past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. Significant cumulative effects are not predicted. A complete disclosure of the effects of the project is contained in Chapter 2 of the EA.

**8. The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.**

The project will not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or other objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, nor will it cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources. A class III cultural resource

inventory (BLM cultural project # 010-2014-057) identified no historic properties. Surface disturbance resulting from the proposed action will have no effect on known historic properties. Unknown cultural resources may be affected by surface disturbing activities. For the protection of unknown cultural resources the standard cultural stipulations apply and are included in the conditions of approval. Consultation occurred with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) under the Wyoming State Protocol Agreement between the BLM and the SHPO (State Protocol).

**9. The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA of 1973.**

There are no Threatened and Endangered, or BLM Special Status Plant Species known to occur in the project area.

BLM Special Status Wildlife Species are known to occur in the project area. Mitigating measures reducing impacts to wildlife have been applied as conditions of approval to the Proposed Action. The proposed project area lies within PHMA and the Oregon Basin sage-grouse core area. A Density/Disturbance Calculation Tool (DDCT) assessment was needed for the project. The DDCT determined that the existing disturbance within the assessment area is 0.56%, and the disruptions per square mile are 0.01. Implementation of the project would add an additional 0.00% of disturbance. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department reviewed the results of the DDCT, have concurred with the findings, and have made recommendations for sage-grouse protection which have been incorporated into this EA as mitigation. No Threatened and Endangered wildlife species are known to occur in the area.

**10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.**

The project does not violate any known federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

**Signed:**

Worland Field Office Manager	Date